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Parcel A

II. Executive Summary

a. Project Title and Applicant Name

Title: Colusa Basin Watershed Project

Applicant: Colusa Basin Drainage District
Colusa County Resource Conservation District

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The Colusa Basin Drain Watershed project will serve as a watershed management project that assists private landowners in reactivating important ecological processes and functions of riparian corridors and associated rangeland and wetland, addressing non-point source pollution, flood control issues, exotic invasive weed abatement. The project will consist of 6 selected sites which will implement riparian enhancement and restoration practices to existing degraded riparian corridors and associated wetlands and rangeland to reduce the amount of surface runoff, chemical residues, and sediments flowing into the Colusa Basin Drain and Sacramento River while restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat. The project will also address exotic invasive riparian and wetland weed species such as *Arundo donax* and *Tamarix chinensis* which occur in the Colusa Basin Watershed. Each cooperating site will have a Resource Management System (RMS) plan developed utilizing an ecosystem based planning approach, and will include a three-year contract with the landowner, who will receive 75% cost-sharing for practices implemented.

c. Approach/Task/Schedule

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District (CRCD) is the lead agency in a partnership with the Colusa Basin Drainage District (CBDD) for the proposed Colusa Basin Watershed Project. The CBDD will assist with the administration, outreach, and planning which includes existing study and planning throughout the Colusa Basin Watershed. The CRCD has an MOU with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Via the MOUs, NRCS staff will provide part-time assistance with all phases of the project. The CRCD has recently acquired additional MOUs with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited and will seek other MOUs during the first year with other cooperating agencies and arrange for staff to manage the project. A Steering Committee will be created, and will have the role of overseeing the project and provide public participation. The project is scheduled to begin January 1, 2000 and be completed on January 1, 2003.

Project tasks include:

Task 1: Project Management & Administration

Task 2: Public Participation

- Task 3: Select Cooperating Sites
 Task 4: Establish Monitoring Sites
 Task 5: Baseline Resource Data
 Task 6: Develop RMS Plans
 Task 7: Schedule Workshops and Tours
 Task 8: Implement RMS Plans
 Task 9: Conduct Workshops and Tours
 Task 10: Prepare Final Report

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d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

As documented in the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, "Long term ecological health of the Delta depends on the health of its component parts." The improvements made to The Colusa Basin Ecological Management Zone through this project and in the future offer a great opportunity to make a contribution to the health of the Bay Delta. The benefits of this project include improved water quality for all beneficial uses, improvement and expansion of available aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat. This project is expected to benefit aquatic habitat in general by enhancing, restoring, and creating healthy riparian corridors and associated wetland and rangeland through promoting shaded riverine habitat, in-stream aquatic habitat, riparian buffer strips, perennial grass cover on rangeland, and native wetland habitat. In addition, it will improve surface water infiltration, reducing runoff, and sedimentation. Moreover, this project will improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species. Priority species expected to benefit from this project include: Winter-run Chinook salmon, Spring-run Chinook salmon, Late-fall run Chinook salmon, Steelhead trout as well as Green sturgeon. Secondary priority species receiving benefits will include striped bass and migratory birds.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

a. <u>Budget Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>CALFED Contribution</u>
A. Personnel Services	\$250,000	\$160,000
B. Operating Expenses	\$6,500	\$6,500
C. Property Acquisitions	\$0	\$0
- Equipment	\$7,000	\$7,000
- Portable Assets	\$0	\$0
- Data Processing Equipment	\$3,000	\$3,000
- Misc., other	\$2,000	\$2,000
D. Professional and Consulting Services	\$8,000	\$9,000
E. Monitoring	\$12,000	\$12,000
F. Implementation-RMS	\$375,000	\$275,000

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G. Overhead 4%	\$19,000	\$19,000
Totals-	\$683,500	\$492,500

f. Applicant Qualifications

The CRCD consists of 7 volunteer directors and 2 paid staff positions including a part-time office manager and a current grant manager. The Colusa Basin Drainage District consists of an Administrative Director and a board comprised of three County Supervisors from the three counties within the Colusa Basin Watershed, three water district representatives, and three elected "at large" members. In addition to the CRCD providing a full-time project technician, the CRCD will also provide the RCD with a part-time project manager. NRCS will contribute a part-time Agricultural Engineer and other staff as needed. The RCD office manager and the CBDD executive director will provide administrative support, and CRCD project manager will assist the full time technician in the field with the landowners to develop Resource Management System plans, collect baseline data, and monitor implementation. Cooperating agencies include: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fish and Game, California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, Colusa Department of Public Works, Colusa Basin Drainage District and Colusa County Board of Supervisors.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The monitoring program includes photo point analysis of each practice site, measurement of ecological indicators, and a comparison of quantity and/or quality of soil and water entering the site, to that leaving it, with the objective of improving water quality via the installation of specific conservation practices scheduled in an RMS level plan. Baseline water quality and resource data will be gathered during the first year for the cooperating sites. The monitoring parameters to be studied are soil erosion, sedimentation, infiltration, runoff, and toxicity.

h. Local Support/Coordination with Other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

There has been a strong interest by landowners to participate in the CBDW project as cooperating sites that will apply RMS level plans. Six landowners within the proposed project area have shown their support and interest in participating in the project through support letters which are included with this application. In 1998, landowners in the CBDW signed up for government assistance, in order to implement over \$500,000 worth of conservation practices on their land. These requests to participate in these projects will require over \$400,000 to implement the associated conservation practices. The implementation RMS plans on these sites will help improve the health of the Colusa Basin and the Sacramento River. A Steering Committee will serve to provide support and guidance for the project. The purpose of the steering committee will be to act as a citizen's monitoring group by making decisions and recommendations regarding progress of the project, results of surveys. In addition, it will sponsor public meetings and all educational workshops and tours.

III. Title Page

a. Title of Project

Colusa Basin Watershed Project